



March 20, 2012

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
RE: SUPPORT SB 447
AN ACT MODERNIZING THE STATE'S TELECOMMUNICATIONS LAWS

My name is Roger Wolfe. I am the president of NetWolfe Technology, based in Westport.

Technology advances at warp speeds. Connecticut's laws, unfortunately, do not. Nevertheless, we finally have an opportunity to play catch up. The Telecommunications Modernization Act, currently making its way through our state legislature, offers the best way to support an industry that can fuel job growth and spur investments in infrastructure – two things our state desperately needs. This legislation attempts to rid our state's regulatory system of the redundant and inconsistent policies that discourage the private sector from doing business in Connecticut. For example, the Act would eliminate duplication in paper filings before the state. In this day and age there is no reason for time and manpower to be wasted on this old fashioned policy. By streamlining procedures and eliminating over burdensome requirements, Connecticut will be joining the ranks of other states that want to seriously compete for jobs and business investments.

And investment is something we need. Aging infrastructure is a problem throughout the nation but it is particularly critical at home. Shouldn't we be doing everything we can to encourage investments in our communications infrastructure instead of saddling the private sector with antiquated regulations? Connecticut is the only state that requires a state audit, even though state information can be extracted from the federally required national audit. It is time to end this laborious and costly exercise so that businesses can focus their resources on the issues that matter to us, like making mobile and internet service faster and more reliable.

The Telecom Modernization Act places onerous burdens on companies that could otherwise make wise investments and hire new employees. Suffice to say, both of these alternatives would be warmly received. By recognizing that the industry looks considerably different than it did decades ago, our elected officials can help Connecticut keep pace in the today's market. We might be a little late to the game, but better late than never.